

**REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

Claims 1–15 are pending in the captioned application.

The Examiner has restricted this invention under 35 U.S.C. § 121 and 372, and requiring election to a single invention from 16 groups recited in the office action. In response, Applicants elect, with traverse, to prosecute the invention of Group I, namely claims 1–9.

Applicants respectfully traverse the restriction and respectfully submit that it is not proper. Specifically, Applicants respectfully assert that, contrary to the Examiner's assertion, all groups do have the same technical feature together, as recited in the "general formula" of claim 1. While Applicants appreciate that some variant of this "general formula" may have been disclosed in the art, Applicants respectfully assert that Groups I–IV claim the same basic compound having different substituents. As such Applicants, respectfully assert that this restriction is improper since all contain the same technical feature as modified by various side chains. Applicants also respectfully submit that because of this, searching the prior art could be readily accomplished for claims 1-15 without undue burden.


Further, in the event that the Examiner does not find this persuasive, Applicants also respectfully assert that Groups V, IX and XIII are not properly restricted from Group

I, inasmuch as the claims of Group V, IX and XIII all contain the structures of Group I and share a common technical feature. Applicants reserve the right to traverse other groups upon filing of any divisional application electing the other groups.

Early and favorable action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

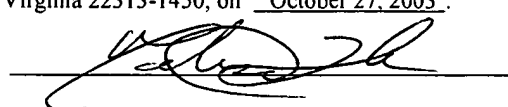
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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450, on October 27, 2003.

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